



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

### Accrington St Peter's Church of England (VC) Primary School

Cartmel Avenue  
Accrington  
BB5 0NW

**Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding**

**Current inspection grade: Outstanding**

**Diocese: Blackburn**

Local authority: Lancashire

Dates of inspection: 19 May 2016

Date of last inspection: 3 March 2011

School's unique reference number: 119386

Headteacher: Joan Smith

Inspector's name and number: Paul Adnitt 590

#### School context

St Peter's Church of England Primary School is situated in a semi-rural location on the edge of Accrington. The majority of the school's 177 pupils come from deprived socio-economic backgrounds and a significant number have English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is double the Lancashire average. The percentage of pupils receiving SEN support is twice the national average

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Peter's as a Church of England school are outstanding

- Inspiring and inclusive daily worship is central to the life of the school. Its quality and vibrancy has a significant contribution to pupils' spiritual development
- The outstanding and distinctive Christian ethos permeates all aspects of school life and has an important and affirmative impact on pupils' personal and spiritual development. This is evidenced in excellent pupil behaviour and relationships.
- Strong links between school, home and the local church, underpinned by gospel values, provide a positive Christian witness in the wider community.
- The exemplary Christian leadership of the headteacher, supported by a strong governing body, ensures that the school's Christian character has a strong impact on pupils' academic achievement and spiritual growth.

#### Areas to improve

- Involve more pupils in planning, leading and evaluating worship in order to deepen their spiritual awareness and understanding of worship and prayer.

#### The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding at meeting the needs of all learners

The school's distinctively Christian ethos nourishes, encourages and challenges the spiritual and

cultural development of the whole community. Chosen core Christian values with a particular focus value each half-term are made explicit and are deeply embedded in the daily life of the school. These Christian values clearly contribute to pupils' behaviour which is outstanding. The staff and governors expound these core gospel values by example, evidenced by the excellent quality of relationships between all members of the school community. This, together with the emphasis on caring for others, makes an exceptional contribution to the pupils' social and moral development. All pupils feel safe and special and have positive attitudes to their learning. They know they are valued and loved by staff. The pupils are proud of their school and speak confidently about why it is special to them. One pupil commented, 'Christian values help us to think how we should behave and live a better life in school and at home.' This has a positive impact on the pupils' excellent personal development and improving school attendance. Pupils are highly motivated, exhibit a love for learning and enjoy being in school. This has a significant effect on the good academic standards and progress achieved by the end of Key Stage 2. Parents are very positive about the Christian ethos of the school. Analysis of recent questionnaire replies show that parents regard the school as being full of love and warmth with a wonderful Christian ethos. Interactive worship and religious education (RE) displays both in classrooms and central areas engage pupils and promote prayer, reflection and spirituality. They are a constant reminder that the school is a place where the Christian faith is alive and nurtured. Particularly effective is the indoor 'Prayer Garden', which is accessible at all times. This enables and encourages all the pupils to experience a rich and varied prayer life. The school holds regular theme weeks and often welcomes visitors from various faiths. These initiatives enable pupils to have an excellent understanding and insight into different faiths and cultures. Pupils have a thorough understanding and awareness of Christianity as a relevant, multi-cultural and vibrant living faith. This is strengthened by the school's commitment to supporting local and international Christian charities. Excellent and imaginative teaching in RE, which is of the highest standard, contributes well to the pupils' spiritual development. It is well planned, monitored and evaluated by the subject leader. Pupils enjoy RE and say it is important to them and the life of the school.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding**

Outstanding collective worship, which is lively and vibrant, is central to the life of the school. Pupils enjoy and value worship and speak enthusiastically about its importance to them and the wider school family. Worship develops their spirituality and helps them to reflect on issues they face. It enhances the pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith, including their awareness of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Consequently pupils are confident when discussing their faith and demonstrate significant levels of spiritual maturity. One pupil commented, 'The Bible is there to tell us how you should live your life. What you should live by. It shows you how to forgive and love others.' Opportunities for reflection and prayer help to develop pupils' spiritual awareness. 'Worship is a time to reflect. We pray and say sorry and ask God to help us and to look after others.' remarked one pupil. Pupils are confident in praying and are encouraged to do so, both in worship and throughout the school day. Their use of prayer is exceptional, sensitive and meaningful and they readily provide their own impromptu prayers in worship. Pupils have a clear understanding of Gospel values because worship promotes them strongly. It also enables pupils to recognise their responsibilities towards others and to reflect on community and personal values. They speak enthusiastically about the value of worship in their lives. Because of this, pupils are respectful and enthusiastic in helping to plan, lead and evaluate their own worship. Although pupils have these opportunities, they say that they would like to be able to contribute more to the worship. The clergy play an important part in the life of the school. Both the vicar and curate are well liked by the pupils who greatly value their involvement and support. One year 6 pupil commented, 'They are a part of our school. They know a great deal about Christianity and the Bible and they explain it well.' The church, a distance from the school, is well used for worship and lessons. This contributes well to the pupils' knowledge of Anglican practice and values. Excellent worship displays and an altar with candle and Bible provide a clear and positive focus. Monitoring, planning and evaluating are

outstanding and include contributions from pupils, staff and governors. This has added significantly to the maintenance of excellent, child-friendly and Christ-centred worship.

**The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is outstanding**

The headteacher is a dedicated Christian leader who takes all possible opportunities to promote St Peter's as a vibrant church school. She leads by example and her Christian faith has a significant influence on the life of the school. This contributes strongly to the school's outstanding Christian distinctiveness. The headteacher has a strong and clear Christian vision for the school and leads spiritual development. Following Christ's example she ensures that all, including vulnerable pupils, are nurtured, loved, supported and cared for. She is well supported in this by the senior leadership team and the governing body, who are fully committed to their roles and responsibilities. They have a strong commitment to the school's Christian foundation and consistently emphasise the gospel message. Providing professional development for all staff and governors is a high priority within the school. This has ensured that leadership of both RE and collective worship is a strength of the school and that future church school leaders are developed. All members of the school family make a positive contribution to church school self-evaluation. This clarifies the present position of St Peter's as a distinctive, motivated and caring Anglican church school. The development of the school's distinctive Christian character is a key component in the school's development planning. All areas for development from the previous inspection have been fully implemented. The influential School Council, together with many other means of service to others, ensures pupils are encouraged to play a responsible role in the life of the school. The school works with and for the community and enjoys outstanding links with the church and the locality. This ensures that it is at the heart of the community. It helps pupils understand the involvement of the church in the local and wider context. Pastoral care, family values and community spirit are highly effective and celebrated. This is a school where all are welcomed and experience the living out of a consistent Christian vision through core Christian values. As one parent put it 'the school is the full package!'

SIAMS report May 2016 St Peter's CofE Primary School Accrington BB5 0NW